

**In the Specification**

Please amend the Specification as follows:

The paragraph beginning at page 17, line 6 is amended as follows:

A1  
In the FIG. 5 example implementation, four example communication links  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$ ,  $L_3$ ,  $L_4$  are illustrated between the node A's HCA 120 and the multi-stage switch fabric 100', and four example links  $L_5$ ,  $L_6$ ,  $L_7$ ,  $L_8$  are illustrated between the multi-stage switch fabric 100' and the node C's TCA [[120]] 160. As mentioned previously, the NGIO switched fabric 100' may be any collection of links, switches and/or switch elements. It should be apparent at this point that the example FIG. 4 local multi-port switch and single-port link repeaters (embodying implementations of the present invention) can be used as switches and/or repeaters throughout the FIG. 5 multi-stage switched fabric 100'. Further, it should also be apparent that implementations of the present invention could likewise be embodied within any of the HCA and/or TCA. If implemented in the FIG. 5 NGIO environment, the example FIG. 4 local devices (e.g., in an NGIO, FIO or InfiniBand environment) might be able to provide support for communication link distances of 100 M (meters) to 200 M as shown representatively in FIG. 4. Similarly, the FIG. 4 remote devices might be able to provide support for communication link distances of 800 M to 1600 M as shown representatively in FIG. 4. The longer communication links may further require fiber optics and the need Link Repeaters at the other end of the links.